The Window

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 2025

Bigger, Better, Brighter

John Amouroux

I am old enough to remember watching television shows on our family's black and white cathode ray tube television set. I also remember the astonishment I felt when viewing a show on the first color television we bought. Saturday morning cartoons became amazing! But I'll not bore you with a walk through the full history of me and my relationship with television technology, and instead move on to today where we now have OLED (organic light-emitting diode) televisions. OLED technology is pretty incredible in that these displays are actually composed of millions of very, very small lights (LEDs), precisely lined up in rows and columns, mounted on a flat rectangular surface. Each individual light can produce light of any color at varying brightness. These lights are all coordinated by computer software and hardware supplying data and power, making them all constantly adjust their color and brightness to create a symphony of light to produce the images we see. If you have seen a large 4K or 8K OLED television you will certainly know how realistic the images can appear, where you think you could be looking out of a real window! When watching a movie or show on these large televisions it is easy to become immersed in any scene with the realism they bring. And that's what television is for, really, to help writers, actors and directors convey information, ideas, stories, and more to many people as best as possible. So what do OLED televisions have to do with Jesus?

If you remember May's Window article, Bev Mosier quoted Matthew 5:14-16 ESV, where Jesus says to his followers, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* I invite you to think again about this quote, and now with my prodding consider OLED televisions along with it, as follows.

Like a single LED in an OLED television, Jesus calls on each one of us to be a light to the world. As you know, we each can be a light in so many ways, like serving the needs of those less fortunate than us,

Bigger, Better, Brighter *(continued)*

helping those who society may have forgotten or actively ignores, promoting equity and justice, forgiving people who hurt us, being joyful and letting those around us know the reason for our joy, and so many other manifestations of the Spirit as She leads us. We also surely find that doing our work of being a light can sometimes be difficult and sometimes easy. In short, being a light is to demonstrate an act of love.

Continuing this analogy, think of our various acts of light we share with the world as colors, and consider the difficulty of a particular act as brightness. Now think of how we are all connected to God like all those tiny LEDs are connected on the OLED display board that supplies the data and power. Consider all the LEDs connected on the display board as the Beloved Community.

Finally, now, step back. One must step back from an OLED television to see and appreciate its full potential. For us, our individual acts of being a light can certainly be seen up close, but if we can step back enough to see all our lights working together, we can begin to imagine the picture of the Beloved Community we're displaying to the world, a symphony of the Spirit working through us. May we always have the strength to persist in revealing the Beloved Community to the world with our lights!

Reflecting, Dreaming, and Growing Together

Celebrating a Season of Discovery and Hope

Reverend Lori Walton

Over the past couple of years, our congregation has embarked on a powerful journey of reflection, connection, and envisioning as we completed the Vital + Thriving congregational development program. What began as a series of conversations quickly became a sacred exploration of who we are—and who we are becoming—as a community of faith

Together, we traced our church's timeline, honoring the bright spots that brought us joy and purpose, while also acknowledging the hard seasons that shaped us. These reflections weren't just an exercise in nostalgia—they were the fertile soil from which new dreams began to grow. Through small group gatherings, directed interviews, times of prayer, storytelling, and joyful fellowship, we discovered more than just facts. We discovered God's blessings in all aspects of our common life.

One of the most heartening revelations from this process was how deeply our identity is rooted in openness and grace. We are, in every sense, a church that welcomes with open arms. Open to all. Affirming of each one's dignity. A spiritual home where

Reflecting, Dreaming, and Growing Together *(continued)*

judgment is left at the door, and belonging takes its place. This isn't just a tagline—it's the truth we live each Sunday and beyond.

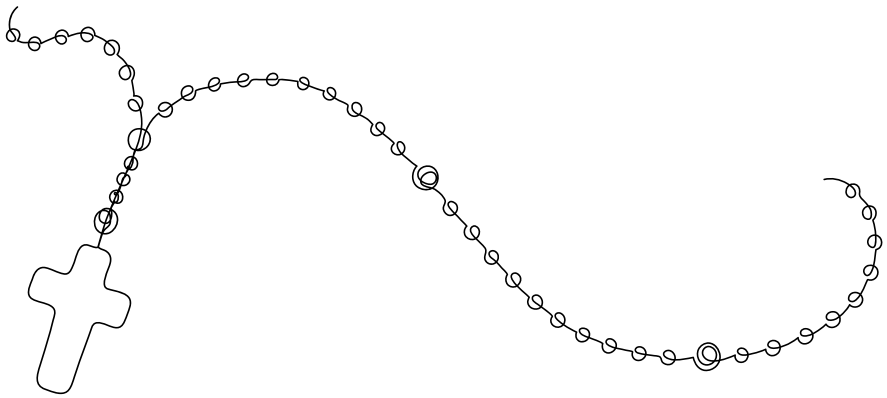
At the same time, our journey revealed opportunities to grow even stronger in ministry. We heard the call to more intentionally serve those who may be seeking a fresh start or a new path of faith: former Roman Catholics, those from Evangelical traditions, people with no church experience, and younger adults seeking meaning in a complex world. These groups aren't "outside" us—they're part of us, already arriving with stories and questions, longing to belong. And we are ready to meet them with compassion, curiosity, and joy.

Concurrent to our work with Vital + Thriving, St. James' has taken additional steps to increase our impact. We worked with ministry leaders to identify the level of congregational participation, realizing that almost 90% of our members are involved in at least one ministry other than worship. We created the "Participate" brochures and recruiting materials to better inform members of opportunities for involvement. We observed the dire need for housing which led us to partner with the City of Fremont in the Safe Parking program.

In order to support and increase our growth, we identified a need for additional staff, resulting in calling the Rev. Ingrid Jacobson as our Associate Rector.

The Vital + Thriving program reminded us that our past is a blessing, our present is vibrant, and our future is full of hope. We are a vital and thriving congregation, and we've only just begun to live into the dreams we named together. And as we move forward, we do so with deepened connection, purpose, and love. While our Vital and Thriving journey has come to an end, we continue to discern where God is leading us and how we can affect our greater community positively.

Thanks be to God for the journey—and for every hand and heart that walked it with us.



JULY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by John Amouroux, Junior Warden

- Meeting called to order on Zoom at 7:06pm
- Gregg led the opening prayer

- **Monthly business**

•Oral communications:

Discussed the potential texting system for special notices

·Approved the June 19 vestry meeting minutes

·Reviewed and accepted June financial reports without amendments

·Approved the June staff and ministry reports

- **New and continuing business**

•Status updates for the Feast of St. James' prep – July 27!

·Voted to approve the 2025 housing allowance for the Rev. Ingrid Jacobson

·Discussed 2026 stewardship ideas

·Discussed tree trimming to prepare for the big painting project

·Started an exploratory team focused on how to better use our vacant land

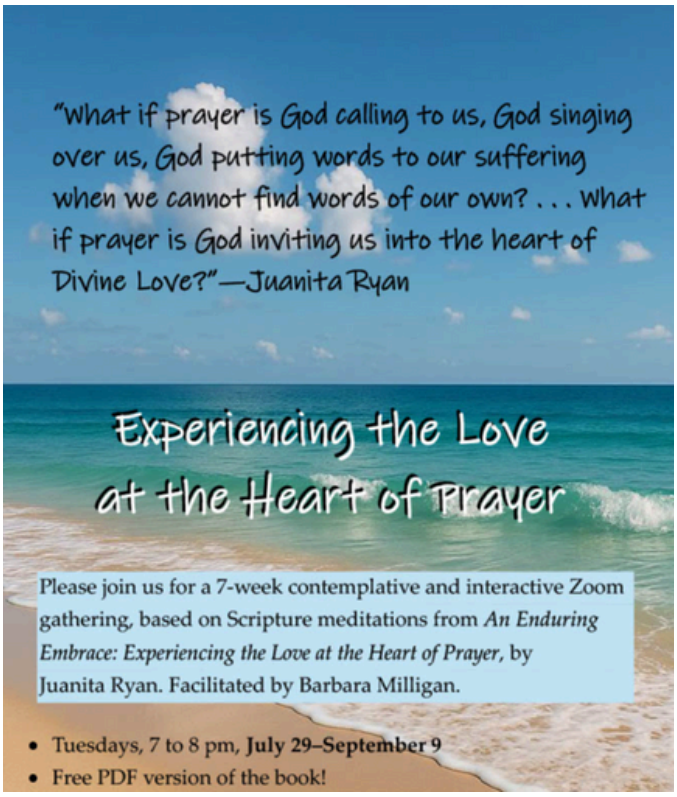
- **Reminders**

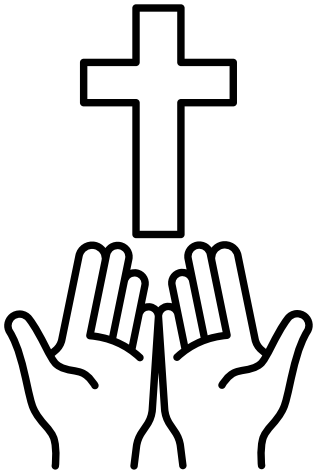
- July 21-23 - Lori will be out of town
- August 20 - newsletter article due for September (Matt)
- August 21 - vestry meeting, will be ON ZOOM (Emily to lead prayers)
- Gregg led compline to close the meeting
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

The next Vestry meeting will be held on August 21 via ZOOM.

The vestry meets via Zoom in the odd months (January, March, etc.) and meets in-person in the parish hall during the even months (February, April, etc).

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

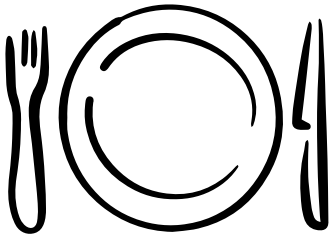




Sunday School Dates 2025

August 17: Sunday School returns
August 24: Back to School Blessing
September 7: Acolyte training
After church training for new and returning acolytes (2nd grade and older) - with pizza!
October 26: Halloween costumes in church
December 7: Advent Afternoon and Evening
A fun afternoon for Sunday School followed by the whole church Advent Evening and dinner.

For more information please contact:
Jan Scrutton, Children & Youth Minister
Jan@saintj.com



St James' Stories - George Vlastelica

as told to Julie Gaynor

In this and upcoming newsletters, we'll share stories of our long-time parishioners at St. James' to narrate life at the parish over the decades. Today we are featuring parishioner George Vlastelica.

George joined St James' Episcopal church with his wife Patricia in August 1964 – 61 years ago. They moved from Washington state to Newark and bought a home from a realtor and fellow parishioner Betty McCoy. George used his college degree to obtain a job teaching Social Studies and History, and coaching sports in Newark. Pat and George raised two sons, Rod and Greg, and a daughter, Linda, who later had six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. St. James' was an important part of their family life both spiritually and socially.

George's career was dedicated to improving the welfare and lives of children in the Tri-City communities. Perhaps his greatest contribution was as a truant officer where he honed his ability to connect with kids. Sometimes it was just a matter of asking "How are you doing?" and then really listening to the answer. He typically identified the need for medical, dental, and basic food and shelter needs. He helped a dozen kids obtain braces by calling on a local orthodontist to provide the services at no cost. Using his positive, upbeat attitude and charm, George was also able to get local optometrists to provide at least fifty kids glasses so they could perform in class, or he would take bags of groceries to feed hungry families while also distributing donated clothing and home furnishings.

So how did St. James' factor into this picture? George led an early effort in the parish to support families in the Tri-City area in need of rent, furnishings, food, clothes, and more to get them through difficult times. On many a Sunday at St. James', George would stand up during announcements to make his pitch for donations. "Get your wallets out" could be heard from the pews as everyone knew what George was about to ask when he stood up. And as George proudly tells it, he would leave that day with $1000 to put to good use. George has been a Senior and Junior Warden, a member of Vestry, and participated in countless work parties. Over the decades, the coordination and organization for helping families in need grew beyond George's individual efforts to include many other leaders at St. James' as well as organizations in the Tri-City area and beyond. But every now and then George runs into a past student or individual who remembers receiving help directly from George to get through a difficult period. Most times George doesn't specifically remember the individual as he helped so many for so long, but his charm and positive personality endear himself to them all over again as he still asks, "How's it going?"

This is the first in a new series of articles in The Window, as some long-time church members share their stories with fellow parishioner Julie Gaynor. Enjoy!

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

LITURGY & WORSHIP

WORSHIP AT CHURCH

We offer two services on Sunday morning at 8:00am and 10:30am. Coffee and light snacks following each service. Join us for worship and fellowship!

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

If you cannot attend church in person, you can join our 10:30am service live-streamed on Sundays at **saintj.com**. The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 10:30am or watched during the week on our **YouTube channel**.

WEDNESDAY 10:00AM SERVICE

Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real time on Zoom. Join us! The link can be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our **website**.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:

YOUTUBE APPLE SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SCRIPTURE/BIBLE STUDIES

Monday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join with others to catch up and wrestle with some of the sacred texts of the Bible. We meet every Monday on Zoom. Email lori@saintj.com for the Zoom link or find more information on our parish **website**.

Wednesday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join us for Bible Study at 11:00am held on Zoom and facilitated by Rev. Lori. Each week we discuss scripture, engaging in various media such as art, video, and text. Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com with questions or find the zoom link on our website.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is held after each service on Sunday mornings. Come over to the Parish Hall after worship and join us for a cup of coffee, light refreshments, and good conversation. Everyone is welcome!

*Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our parish website, **saintj.com**. Look for the calendar of events on the right side of our home page. If something is not listed, email the leader and they will make sure you have what you need.*

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Summer Sunday School | ***Current Events***

During the school year Sunday School (TK - 6 grade) meets weekly during the 10:30am service and Episcopal Youth Fremont- EYF - (6 – 12 grade) meets monthly on a Sunday evening. **Sunday School restarts after the summer break on August 17th and EYF returns in September.** Our acolyte program engages young people in 2 grade and above, enabling them to serve in church. **Acolyte training will take place on September 7th.**

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont (EYF) is a youth group for 6th – 12th graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. **Any questions about our programs for children or youth? Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | JUNE 2025

Fund Balances	6/30/2024	6/30/2025
Operating Fund	67,012.13	67,270.47
Building Fund	95,829.56	95,829.56
Special Interest funds	689,919.18	720,071.47
Pledges Budgeted	198,865.50	187,480.98
Pledges Paid	199,189.92	191,779.96
Unpledged Contributions	5,230.00	12,299.99
Other Operating Income	9,320.68	13,997.90
Total Operating Income	213,740.60	218,077.85
Total Operating Expenses	207,821.36	211,950.27
Income Less Expenses	5,919.24	6,127.58

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military

Jarrod, Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny, Johnathan, Darren, Robert

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort

Ron, Julie, Gail, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Mandy, John, Ralph, Don, José, Paul, Albert, Barbara, John, Judy, Jan, Cathy, Karen, Mary Ellen, Adele, Jésus P.

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance

David, Derek, Lynn, Marilyn, Mandy, Sally, Jim, John, the Leopold family, the Robert family, Carol, George, Makenna

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Frankie, Bill A., John W., John D.

BLESSING BAGS FOR DISTRUBITION

Each bag contains toiletries, water, food, socks, a blanket, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that double as backpacks. **We are not taking donations other than monetary donations.** This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent. Blessing Bags are available to pick up during office hours (Wed/Thurs, 10am-1pm).

It is helpful to have gift cards to give with the bags when appropriate. If you'd like to donate a card, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. They can be given to the wardens or clergy.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the Church Office.

After six weeks, names are removed. Please renew request(s) as needed.

MORNING CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS | ZOOM

Tuesdays | 10:00AM – 11:00 AM

Join Sylvia Ma for a weekly Zoom class of chair exercises on Breathing/Qi Gong and Tai Chi/ Hsing I movements. No experience is necessary. If you are interested, email Sylvia at **hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com**. The link will also be found on the parish website's calendar.

ADDRESS *Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont CA*

MAILING *PO Box 457 Fremont, CA 94537-0457*

WEBSITE *www.saintj.com* **TELEPHONE** *(510) 797-1492*

OFFICE HOURS *Wednesdays & Thursdays* | *10:00am – 1:00pm*

Called to serve, in new and loving ways.

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, *Rector*.....**lori@saintj.com**
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson, *Associate Rector*.....**ingrid@saintj.com**
Jan Scrutton, *Children and Youth Minister*.....**jan@saintj.com**
Jennifer Ravera, *Music Director*.....**music@saintj.com**
Ron Cook, *Office Administrator*.....**admin@saintj.com**
Bruce Roberts, *Treasurer*.....**treasurer@saintj.com**

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden
Charisma Pangilinan | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
John Amouroux | jrwarden@saintj.com

Emily Dunn
Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Paula McKinney
Katie Porter
Marcus Pun
Bev Mosier
Barbara Vacchieri

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Bev Mosier
Mike Scrutton
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Jim McConnell**

Contact Us: **stjdeanery@saintj.com**

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services:
In-Person | 8:00am and 10:30am

Live-streamed | 10:30am with recording

Wednesday Service:
Online/Zoom | 10:00am

COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson

Ushers
Burtin Hart

Facilities ***facilities@saintj.com***

The Window Newsletter Staff
Laura Winter
John Wagas **Gregg Feeney**
Barbara Milligan **Brian Cochran**